

Extended – Alternative Arrangements for Meetings for Companies, Variable Capital Companies, Business Trusts, Unit Trusts and Debenture Holders

A year has passed since the introduction in April 2020 of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Alternative Arrangements for Meetings for Companies, Variable Capital Companies, Business Trusts, Unit Trusts and Debenture Holders) Order 2020 (“**Order**”) (made under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020). In reliance on the alternative arrangements prescribed under the Order and having regard to the joint statement issued by the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (“**ACRA**”), Monetary Authority of Singapore (“**MAS**”) and Singapore Exchange Regulation (“**SGX RegCo**”) which provides additional guidance on the conduct of general meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, listed issuers and private entities were able to successfully convene and conduct their shareholder meetings in a safe and responsible manner amidst an evolving pandemic situation. This was a timely move by the regulators which helped to keep community spread under control as our nation continues to battle the crisis.

While the rollout of vaccines both nationally and globally continue to make progress and provide hope of a full return to normalcy, the pandemic situation in many countries remains unpredictable at present as we continue to see secondary and tertiary waves of the outbreak.

The Ministry of Law (“**MinLaw**”) [announced](#) on 6 April 2021 that the Order will be further extended to enable entities to hold meetings via electronic means beyond the current expiry date of 30 June 2021, until such time the Order is revoked or amended by MinLaw. MinLaw’s press release states that the Order will remain in force until at least 31 December 2021, and it is envisaged that the extension will continue to be in force thereafter for at least as long as the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020 are in force. MinLaw will give at least six months’ advance notice before the alternative arrangements cease to be available. This is a welcome move as entities will have greater legal certainty as they plan, and make preparations ahead, for their meetings during the ongoing pandemic.

As at the date of writing this update, ACRA, MAS and SGX RegCo have not released an update to their current joint statement (available [here](#), last updated 1 October 2020), and readers should keep a look-out for any such update as well as an update to Singapore Exchange’s existing FAQs on this (available [here](#), last updated 5 October 2020).

Similar extensions have also been granted in relation to the meetings of other organisations such as charities, co-operative societies, societies and management corporations.

If you would like information or assistance on the above or any other area of law, you may wish to contact the Partner at WongPartnership whom you normally work with or any of the following Partners:



Annabelle YIP

Joint Head – Corporate Governance & Compliance

d: +65 6416 8249

e: [annabelle.yip](mailto:annabelle.yip@wongpartnership.com)

[@wongpartnership.com](https://www.wongpartnership.com)

Click [here](#) to view Annabelle's CV.



Vivien YUI

Partner – Corporate Governance & Compliance

d: +65 6416 8009

e: [vivien.yui](mailto:vivien.yui@wongpartnership.com)

[@wongpartnership.com](https://www.wongpartnership.com)

Click [here](#) to view Vivien's CV.



Kevin HO

Deputy Head – Corporate Governance & Compliance

d: +65 6416 2555

e: [kevin.ho](mailto:kevin.ho@wongpartnership.com)

[@wongpartnership.com](https://www.wongpartnership.com)

Click [here](#) to view Kevin's CV.

 Connect with WongPartnership.

WPG MEMBERS AND OFFICES

- contactus@wongpartnership.com

SINGAPORE

-

WongPartnership LLP
12 Marina Boulevard Level 28
Marina Bay Financial Centre Tower 3
Singapore 018982
t +65 6416 8000
f +65 6532 5711/5722

CHINA

-

WongPartnership LLP
Shanghai Representative Office
Unit 1015 Corporate Avenue 1
222 Hubin Road
Shanghai 200021, PRC
t +86 21 6340 3131
f +86 21 6340 3315

MYANMAR

-

WongPartnership Myanmar Ltd.
Junction City Tower, #09-03
Bogyoke Aung San Road
Pabedan Township, Yangon
Myanmar
t +95 1 925 3737
f +95 1 925 3742

INDONESIA

-

Makes & Partners Law Firm
Menara Batavia, 7th Floor
Jl. KH. Mas Mansyur Kav. 126
Jakarta 10220, Indonesia
t +62 21 574 7181
f +62 21 574 7180
w makeslaw.com

MALAYSIA

-

Foong & Partners
Advocates & Solicitors
13-1, Menara 1MK, Kompleks 1 Mont' Kiara
No 1 Jalan Kiara, Mont' Kiara
50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
t +60 3 6419 0822
f +60 3 6419 0823
w foongpartners.com

MIDDLE EAST

-

Al Aidarous International Legal Practice
Abdullah Al Mulla Building, Mezzanine Suite
02
39 Hameem Street (side street of Al Murroor
Street)
Al Nahyan Camp Area
P.O. Box No. 71284
Abu Dhabi, UAE
t +971 2 6439 222
f +971 2 6349 229
w aidarous.com

-

Al Aidarous International Legal Practice
Zalfa Building, Suite 101 - 102
Sh. Rashid Road
Garhoud
P.O. Box No. 33299
Dubai, UAE
t +971 4 2828 000
f +971 4 2828 011

PHILIPPINES

-

ZGLaw
27/F 88 Corporate Center
141 Sedeño Street, Salcedo Village
Makati City 1227, Philippines
t +63 2 889 6060
f +63 2 889 6066
w zglaw.com/~zglaw